

**REMARKS**

Claims 8-13 having been withdrawn without prejudice in response to a restriction requirement, Claims 1-7 now remain in this application for consideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment has been made in good faith, that no new matter has been added and that the Claims are in proper form for allowance.

The examiner has requested an election of subject matter pursuant to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 to one of the following groups:

- I. Claims 1-7, drawn to a coated membrane, classified in class 422, subclass 57.
- II. Claims 8-10, drawn to an assembly, classified in class 435, subclass 287.9.
- III. Claims 11-13, drawn to a method for preparing a membrane, classified in class 435, subclass 29.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants elect without traverse, Group I, Claims 1-7, drawn to a coated membrane.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to the non-elected subject matter including the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications to that subject matter, as now embraced in non-elected Claims 8-13.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-7 are in proper form for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 27, 2003

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